

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When a decision is made that a part or all of data processing carried out by an operative image data processing unit CS0 is switched to an image data processing unit CS1 as a switching destination, volume data Volume-1 the same as those handled by the operative image data processing unit CS0 is first transmitted from a volume data storage unit SS to the destination image data processing unit CS1, and additional information Mask-1 such as additional information contained in the operative image data processing unit CS0 is then copied to the destination image data processing unit CS1 so that the destination image data processing unit CS1 can execute the data processing.